

Vision Sunday 2022

Proverbs 11:30

COUNTDOWN:

OPENING VIDEO: Vision

VISION SUNDAY WELCOME: (Pastor Wayne) Good morning church, and welcome to Vision Sunday 2022! It is so good to have so many present today, and others watching by livestream, thank you for being part of our celebration this morning. If you are glad to have 2021 behind you, and are looking forward to what God is going to do in 2022, LET'S GIVE GOD A GREAT BIG HAND CLAP OF PRAISE.

Vision Sunday Explanation: Every year in January we have a Sunday where we challenge our people to look at the coming year through the lens of God's Word and His call on our lives. We believe it's important on this Sunday to renew our commitment to God and His church, and to rededicate ourselves to faithfully serving the Kingdom. In just a little while, I will share with you a new theme for the year and how it will affect our lives. We will also be taking up our Vision Sunday Offering, and give you an opportunity to share in the work that God has called us to, here at Christ First Church. What an exciting day!

So get ready, God desires our worship! **Psalm 47: 1** commands us, "Oh, clap your hands, all you people! Shout to God with loud songs of triumph!" SO COME ON, STAND TO YOUR FEET, clear your throats, and let's lift our voices to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! LET'S GO...

WORSHIP: (Chris Davis & Team)

PRAYER AND OFFERING: (Pastor Wayne & C1 YOUTH "Thank You" Video)

SERMON INTRO: Turn your Bibles, or turn them on, to the O. T. Book of Proverbs, chapter 11. If you are new to church life, Proverbs is about ¾ of the way into the O. T. It falls immediately after the long Book of Psalms, with it's 150 chapters, and just before the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Today, I'm talking to you about our VISION for the coming year. The Vision Theme that I feel the Lord has laid on my heart for 2022 is a little different from years past. It's more of an INITIATIVE than a theme. As a matter of fact, that's what I'm calling it, an initiative, to be specific, "The WIN Initiative". WIN being and acronym for WHO IS NEXT. Who is next to come to faith in Christ? Who is next to become a Kingdom Warrior? WHO IS NEXT among those you know and love to hear the gospel and believe?

Today, what I really hope to do, is help you create a "NEXT" list. I want you to leave here with a renewed confidence that God cares about those... you care about. And He desires that all should come to repentance, and come to faith. So, get out a pen and paper and let's start working on your list!

Now, I know some of you are already getting sweaty palms thinking about telling someone about Jesus, and your faith in Him. You're breaking out in hives, and a nervous wreck and we haven't even started yet. LISTEN TO ME, it is not as hard as you think. **ILLUS:** The story is told about a barber who had just been gloriously saved in an old-fashioned revival

meeting. The next morning at work he wanted to share his new faith and witness to the lost. A customer came in, and the barber began to shave him. He was trying to muster up the right words to say. Finally as he stood with his razor poised over the man's throat he asked, "Are you prepared to meet God?"

LOL, see, it's not that hard... Now, let's look at a beautiful verse of scripture that will serve as our theme verse this year...

Proverbs 11:30 *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise."*

Let's read it one more time, then we'll take a deeper look at this incredible verse.

Proverbs 11:30 *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise."*

There are five words in this verse that I want us to see, really see, that I think will help us with our WIN Initiative. Notice...

I) CHILDREN: v 30 *"The fruit of the righteous..."* The word translated "fruit" here is the Hebrew word, "peri". It means, offspring, progeny of the womb, it literally means CHILDREN.

We immediately see a couple of things here. First, that it's possible for Christians (the righteous) to bear fruit, that is, to produce children of the faith. This is certainly no peculiar teaching. In **Titus 1:4** Paul says, *"To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior."* Again Paul says something almost identical to young Timothy in **1 Timothy 1:2** *"To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."*

So, we see that it's possible to produce CHILDREN. Secondly, we discover from this verse that bearing fruit is the equivalent to winning souls. But there's a lot of stuff in between. Notice...

II) CHARACTER or CONDUCT: v 30 *"...of the righteous..."* In the N.T. we read about the righteousness of Christ. In **Philippians 3:9** *"And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith."* But in this verse, the Bible is not speaking about the righteousness of Christ, it's speaking about RIGHT LIVING. The righteous life of those who love God.

Right living has the power to produce fruit!

III) COMMUNITY: v 30 *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life..."*

IV) CAPTURE: v 30 *"...and he who wins souls..."* The Hebrew word translated WIN here, means, to lay hold of, to seize, or to capture. It conveys the idea of SNATCHING someone away from one who wishes to harm them.

V) CLEVER: v 30 *"...is wise."* The word in the original means, Shrewd, crafty or clever. WISE! Lord, help us to become wise.

CONCLUSION:

Thank you for coming to our celebration today!

Let's look at a couple of things before we go into conference for the purpose of approving a new budget, and to approve our Nominating Committee Report.

PASS OUT ALL MATERIALS: *Church Structure, Year End Finance Report, 2022 Faith Budget, and Nominating Committee Report.*

We have many new people since last year, so I always like to take a little time on Vision Sunday to look over our CHURCH STRUCTURE, so you will know how our church is governed and runs.

Look over the YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT: I will take questions in just a moment once we get into conference.

GO INTO CONFERENCE: Can I get a move and a second that we go into conference for the purpose of approving a new church budget, and the Nominating Committee Report.

Secretary, let it be shown in the minutes that there's more than enough to constitute a quorum present, and that we are proceeding with conference on Sunday, January 9, 2022, known as VISION SUNDAY 2022.

First we will look at the YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT and take questions...

Now, let's look at our 2022 FAITH BUDGET as presented by the Finance Team...

Okay, I need to get a motion to accept the Budget as presented before we have a discussion. CAN I GET A MOTION? Thank you. It comes from a committee so it needs no second. I will answer any questions at this time.

Now, we have the distinct honor of approving this budget, and bringing glory to God, by a show of hands in the affirmative. Thank you, the budget is approved.

Lastly, let's look at the NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT.

Can I get a motion that the report be approved as presented? It needs no second coming from committee. Is there any discussion on the report?

Again, let us show our approval of this report by hands raised. Thank you, the report is approved.

Can I get a move and second that conference come to a close.

AND ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SAID, AMEN!

CLOSING WORDS: Encourage people to be "BRINGERS", people who bring others to Church. The WIN initiative has begun! WHO IS NEXT on your list to bring to church?